

Menard Home  
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

HABS  
TEX.

84- GALV

3-

**ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...**

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District # 6 Tex 2

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Birdsall P. Briscoe, District Officer  
4301 Main Street, Houston, Texas.

MEYARD HOUSE  
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas (1605 -33 rd St.) HABS  
TEX.

Owner Mrs. Mary Ketchum

24. GALV

Date of Erection 1840's

3-

Architect

Builder Michael Menard

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Present Condition Excellent

Number of Stories Two story. Pitched roof- porches two story columns.

Materials of Construction Framework of white pine from Maine. Sills and other lumber of Georgia and Florida pine. Whole structure morticed together and joists set with white lead.

Other Existing Records:

Additional Data: Michael Menard was the founder of Galveston and was very active in early politics. This once fine old home stood in the center of a ten acre tract of land and on its lawn the Shawnee Indians have gathered many times to hold council with their chieftain, Menard, who had been given that title during his fur trading days. During the early 1840's many notables met in the old house in important conferences concerning city and state affairs. The first masquerade ball in Galveston took place in this old home. The place was owned by Menard's descendants until purchased by Colonel Ed. M. Ketchum and is still owned by one of the Ketchum descendants. Many trees were planted by Col. Menard and grew rapidly and he gave it the name of "The Oaks". During the war between the states and yellow fever epidemics this home was given over as a hospital for sick and wounded.

This home was sold to Mr. Edwin M. Ketchum, November 1880. Overgrown with weeds and brush, Mr. Ketchum renamed it "Old Chapparral". Ketchums continued traditional hospitality, a special event being an annual July 4th barbecue. Trees killed by high water and grade raising replanted by Mr. Ketchum and entire grounds shaded by beautiful oaks.

NOTE: HOME TO BE MARKED OFF BY GRANITE MONUMENT AS HOME OF FOUNDER OF GALVESTON.

One of the best of the Greek Revival homes in Galveston. Excellent in scale. The interiors are also quite in keeping with the restrained taste that is shown on the outside.

Addendum to:

Michel B. Menard House  
1603 33rd Street  
Galveston  
Galveston County  
Texas  
as recorded in 1936

HABS No. TX-26

HABS  
TEX  
84-GALV,  
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

## MICHEL B. MENARD HOUSE

Addendum to:  
"Michel B. Menard House"  
1603 33rd St.  
Galveston  
Galveston County  
Texas

Location: 1603 33rd Street, Galveston, Galveston County,  
Texas

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Mr. Henry R. Ketchum

Significance: Michel Menard was an early Texas pioneer, an important statesman of the Republic and the founder and developer of Galveston city, the leading commercial center for all of Texas throughout the nineteenth century. The house itself is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style and one of Galveston's earliest extant structures.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1839
2. Builder: It is believed that the house was built by Augustus Allen, a founder and promoter of the city of Houston.
3. Original and subsequent owners: For a number of years past it has been assumed that Menard erected this house in 1838. However, present research points to the contrary. By the title abstract to the property, he was not an owner of the land until 1848 at the death of his wife, the former Mary Jane Riddle. She had purchased the property from Menard's cousin, Peter J. Menard, in 1843, the same year that she married Michel.

It is known that Peter Menard occupied a residence on this property and research indicates that he inherited a house at the time of purchase in 1840. If this is correct, then the house was erected by Augustus Allen.

The original house which was probably erected in 1839 has been substantially changed, however, and it is likely that Menard had this work done in 1843 when he married Mary Jane Riddle. Complete substantiating data has not yet been found, but the data as it is presented is in itself self-supporting.

Menard died in 1856. In 1885 the property was purchased by Edward H. Ketchum whose son, Colonel H. R. Ketchum, is the present owner and resident.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Michel Branamour Menard was born at the little village of La Prairie, near Montreal, Canada, December 5, 1805. At the age of sixteen he engaged in the northwestern fur trade in the employ of an American company at Detroit. Three years later he went to Missouri, at the solicitation of his uncle, Pierre Menard, then Lieutenant Governor and fur trader. There, Menard engaged in the Missouri fur trade and was very successful and it has been reported that he was elected a chief in the Shawnee tribe.

In 1833 or 1834 he came to Texas and settled at Nacogdoches where he traded with the Mexicans and Indians. During the Texas Revolution in 1836, Menard at the request of the Texas Government used his Indian influence to quell the tribes on the northeast frontier who were being encouraged by the Mexicans to harass the settlements.

Menard was a member of the Convention that declared the independence of Texas and framed the Constitution for the Republic. In 1839, he was a member of Congress from Galveston and was the author and advocate of the system of finance by the issue of exchequer bills. This system was eventually adopted and provided the revenue to sustain the destitute Republic.

In 1836 Menard was granted by the Congress of the Republic the league and labor of land on which Galveston city now stands. This was done for a \$50,000 compensation. Menard then proceeded to found the Galveston City Company which was a stock company created to sell Menard's property. A survey was soon made and in 1837 lots were offered for sale. Menard was later responsible for establishing the Galveston Wharf Company.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Abstract of Title to South East Quarter of Outlot #37,  
Galveston City, manuscript in possession of present owner.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Galveston Tri-Weekly News. September 4, 1856.

Galveston Evening Tribune. June 1889.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.

Director

Galveston Architecture Inventory

March 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: Two story Greek Revival frame with a one story south wing and two story north wing.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Main block, 26'-5" x 64'-4" including front gallery. South wing, 18'-10" x 21'-1". North wing, 19'-3" x 31'-7".

2. Foundations: Brick piers

3. Wall construction: Wood frame, weatherboarding

4. Structural system: Braced frame

5. Porches: Three bay front double gallery, full height wooden Ionic fluted columns; balustrade around second floor gallery.

South wing, one story two-bay porch with wooden Ionic fluted columns to match front, except on pedestals.

North wing, two story, two-bay porch with wooden Ionic fluted columns to match others with balustrade around upper gallery.

Rear gallery partially enclosed.

6. Chimneys: Three two story brick chimneys, one story brick chimney in rear wall of south wing.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorway and doors: Entrance door two panel with three light transom. Correct Greek wood architrave and side trim, splayed.

- b. Windows: All porch windows are six-over-six-over-six light triple-hung wood sash. All side windows are two-over-two light double-hung except on south and rear wings which are six-over-six light double-hung sash. All have exterior adjustable louvered shutters.

8. Roof: All roofs are shingled and hipped except rear wing has west gable.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Plan is a typical side hall arrangement with a stair hall along the north side, flanked by two principal rooms. The south and north wings contain only one room to a floor. A kitchen and hall extend across the back as does an outside screened gallery. A rear wing of two rooms per floor extends from the west facade of the northwest corner.
2. Stairway: Hall stair is straight with landing, turned newel post and balusters. Straight stair on rear gallery.
3. Floor: Wood center-match.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Originally plastered, wall presently papered.
5. Doors: Principally six paneled.
6. Trim: Wood trim around openings.
7. Hardware: Rim locks and butt hinges. Outside shutters have pintel hinges.
8. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.
  - b. Heating: Modern gas heating equipment.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: House occupies north half of southeast quarter of Outlot 37 and faces east on Thirty-third Street. The grounds are shaded by large live-oak trees.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.  
Director  
Galveston Architecture Inventory  
March 16, 1967.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Galveston Survey was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation and the Galveston Historical Foundation Inc.; and developed under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). The historical data was written by John C. Garner, Jr.; acting as the Director of the Galveston Architecture Inventory. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Allen Stross in the summer of 1967.